Return of Migrants to Punjab

853. SHRI MURLIDHAR CHANDRAKANT BHANDARE: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether, following the recent 'Operation Black Thunder' to cleanse the Golden Temple, the refugees from Punjab have begun returning to their homes in Punjab;

(b) if so, how many refugee families have since returned and how many are yet to return and are still remaining in various refugee camps outside Punjab; and

(c) what further steps are being taken to ensure that all the refugees return back to their homes in Punjab?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) to (c) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Seizure of Charas by Delhi Police

854. SHRI MURLIDHAR CHANDRAKANT BHANDARE:
SHRI MAHENDRA PRASAD:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the special staff of Delhi Police intercepted a truck near Moolchand Hospital Crossing in South Delhi on June 13, 1988 and seized 700 kgs. of charas;

(b) whether any well-organised gang engaged in smuggling of narcotics has been smashed as a result of this seizure: if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) what is Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. Five persons were arrested. They are presently in judicial custody. The truck is in court custody as case property.

Visit of Trade Delegation of ASSOCHAM to Federal Republic of Germany

855. SHRI MAHENDRA PRASAD: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a trade delegation of ASSOCHAM recently visited the Federal Republic of Germany to explore possibilities of joint industrial collaboration and also for increasing bilateral trade and business:

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard; and

(c) what is Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. R. DAS MUNSHI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Final report fo the delegation has not been received.

Involvement of Local Institutions to Raise Farm Forestry

856. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether his Ministry has decided that at least 70 per cent of the afforestation work should be done in the forest sector so that requirements for both fuel-wood and raw materia for industry can be met;

(b) if so, whether Governmen would seek the help of local institutions like Panchayats and also financia

institutions to support the efforts of individuals in raising of farm forestry;

(c) whether it is a fact that fuelwood requirements of the country would be of the order of 300 to 330 million tonnes; and

(d) if so, what efforts are being made in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI SHIVRAJ PATIL): (a) About 70% of the allocations for the Forest Sector is generally utilised for afforestation purposes for mainly the fuel wood & fodder requirement as also the raw material requirement of industries.

(b) The ongoing programme provides for the involvement of local bodies like Panchayats as well as financial institutions.

(c) and (d) Different estimates exist for the future requirement of fuel-wood in the country. However, the Advisory Board on Energy has estimated that the fuel-wood demand would be in the range of 300—330 million tonnes by 2004/05. One of the main objectives of the afforestation programme is to raise fuel-wood plantations.

Identification of Journalism as a Profession for Advancing Bank Loans

857. SHRI PURUSHOTTAM KAKODKAR: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) which are the professions identified by the nationalised banks for advancing loans;

(b) whether journalism is considered one of such professions by the banks; and

(c) if not, what are the reasons for not considering journalism as a profession?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) to (c) Reserve Bank of India has reported that "Professionals and self-employed persons" identified by the nationalised banks for advancing loans include Medical Practioners. Dentists, Chartered Accountants, Cost Accountants, Lawyers or solicitors. Engineers, Architects, Surveyors, Construction Contractors or Management Consultants or a person trained in any other art or craft who holds either a degree or diploma from any institution established, aided or recognised by Government or a person who is considered by the bank as technically qualified or skilled in the field in which he is employed.

Free lance journalists can be classified under professionals and self-employed persons for the purpose of bank credit, provided they satisfy the terms and conditions stipulated for availment of credit assistance from banks under priority sector.

Granting of Loans for Banks to Professionals

858. SHRI PURUSHOTTAM KAKODKAR: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any guidelines have been formulated by the nationalised banks to disburse loans to various categories of professionals;

(b) if so, which professions are included in the category;

(c) how much time is taken on an average to sanction loans; and

(d) whether persons obtaining loans keep up their repayment schedule?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO(: (a) The guidelines issued by Reserve Bank of India (RBI) to the